Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply to the California Resilience Challenge?
Eligible entities include: California cities, counties, local agencies, county districts, Joint Powers Authorities, special districts per Government Code 56036, California Native American tribes, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Councils of Governments. Collaborations between public entities and non-profits are welcomed, but a lead agency should be clearly identified. Please refer to pages 5-6 in the RFP.

Can nonprofits, universities, public charter schools, local businesses, pilot sites, or other partners apply for Resilience Challenge grants?
No, but they can be a listed collaborator with one of the above listed qualifying public entities. The RFP does allow for sub granting, but the primary grantee must qualify as an eligible applicant.

Are applicants outside of the Bay Area eligible?
Absolutely. The Resilience Challenge is a statewide effort. A core value of the Resilience Challenge is to seed projects in as many diverse geographies, with diverse climate challenges, as possible.

Is there a limit on how many proposals an entity can submit?
No. However, since the Challenge seeks to support diverse projects across California, it is extremely unlikely that an applicant will be rewarded more than one grant for separate proposals. We encourage applicants to submit a proposal that most aligns with the priorities outlined by the California Resilience Challenge RFP.

SCORING AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

How are projects weighted and evaluated? Who will review each proposal?
Individual evaluation criteria are not weighted. Projects will instead be evaluated individually based on their aggregate adherence to the 11 evaluation criteria (RFP pages 6-7). The proposals will be reviewed by members of the California Resilience Challenge Advisory Committee, whose members can be seen at ResilientCal.org/Leadership.

Are ‘Letters of Support’ or other evaluation criteria weighted?
No. However, demonstration of local support, including through letters of support, are one of the 11 evaluation criteria.

**Why are the evaluation criteria not being weighted?**
To encourage creativity and allow for a diversity of project types, scales, approaches, geographies, and populations served.

**PROJECT TYPES**

**Will air quality improvement projects be considered?**
Provided the improvement is related to wildfire resilience and that it satisfactorily met other criteria, yes.

**Will the Resilience Challenge consider supporting planning projects that are not required by law?**
Yes.

**Is there an ideal scale of project the Resilience Challenge is looking to fund?**
The most competitive proposals will provide community-scale resilience.

**Are planning projects that are already underway eligible?**
Yes.

**Is there a time limit on when the physical project needs to be complete after the Dec. 31, 2022 planning deadline?**
No. However, the most competitive proposals will have reasonable paths towards implementation beyond the timeline of this grant.

**Will natural systems and green infrastructure projects be eligible?**
Absolutely.

**Are pilot projects eligible?**
Provided it’s a planning project that meets other criteria, yes.

**Will sediment replacement and management projects be eligible?**
Provided the project provides resilience and satisfactorily meets the eligibility criteria, yes.

**Can plans cover multiple sectors of the community?**
Yes.

**Will advocacy projects, public education campaigns, pilot projects, or projects that do not otherwise prioritize the development of physical infrastructure be considered?**
Possibly. Deliverables should be clear and demonstrate how the project will meet the Challenge’s evaluation criteria, including increasing community resilience to climate change.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE WORK

**What items are considered as eligible expenses?**
Refer to page 8 in the RFP.

**What items are considered ineligible expenses?**
Refer to page 8 in the RFP. Expenses requiring purchases of tangible goods and products (air filters, generators, etc.) are ineligible. Reimbursements from costs incurred before the granting period are also ineligible.

**Will fieldwork, modelling, or feasibility studies be eligible expenses?**
Yes. Projects should be focused on planning and development, rather than reimbursement for engineering or construction costs of capital projects.

**Is there a maximum allowable percentage for indirect costs?**
No.

Can Resilience Challenge grants be used to plan mitigation action as required by CEQA?
No.

MISCELLANEOUS

**Who do I contact if I have additional questions?**
Please contact Adrian Covert at acovert@bayareacouncil.org (cc: Amari Cowan at acowan@bayareacouncil.org)

**Where can I sign up for updates about the Resilience Challenge?**
ResilientCal.org.

**Will the Resilience Challenge launch another round of grant funding?**
There are no current plans for future rounds of grants from The Resilience Challenge.